



**January, 2005**

**New Year. . .**

The New Year comes when all the world is ready for changes, resolutions – great beginnings. For us, to whom that stroke of midnight means a missing child remembered, for us the new year comes more like another darkness, but let us not forget that this may be the year when love and hope and courage find each other somewhere in the darkness to lift their voice and speak; Let there be light.

*~By Sascha*

**New Year Goals**

The holidays are over and I bet you're glad about that. You did make it through, and by now maybe some of the stress of that powerful time has left you. Next year you will find you learned from this year, no matter how many years it has been, and I hope it will be easier for you, too. In the years ahead, if you made New Year's resolutions, I hope they included:

- ~ To try and take it one day at a time;
- ~ To forgive yourself for whatever it is you feel you did wrong;
- ~ To Figure out ways to resolve your anger so you can let go of it;
- ~ To concentrate on and value what you have left as much as what you have lost;
- ~ To risk reinvestment in life;
- ~ To let those you value know how important they are to you.

These are important steps forward. Try to be good to yourself in the New Year.

*By TCF, Long Beach, CA*

**“NOTHING ROOTED IN LOVE IS EVER LOST, FOR IT HAS BECOME PART OF THE LIVING WHOLE.”**

*~Pam Brown*



**Justin's Birthday**

Though his smile is gone forever,  
And his hand I cannot touch,  
I still have so many memories,  
Of the one I loved so much.  
His memory is my keepsake,  
With which I'll never part.  
Heaven has him in its keeping,  
I have him in my heart.

So on his birthday, January ninth,  
I'll remember that special love,  
That came to me that night.  
His life I shared for twenty two years,  
But your mother I will be for all eternity.  
Sadly missed, but never forgotten.

*Love always,  
Mom*



**A Wish In Rachel's Memory**

January 1st, 1993 was one of the most glorious days of my life. At 2:30 pm our precious daughter Rachel Marie Schmidt was born. She had a head full of dark hair and dark blue eyes. Her head was perfectly round, and her skin was a beautiful rosy pink color. We had a daughter. Josh had a little sister, and our family had its first granddaughter. Rachel would fill our lives with so much joy. We would have almost four years of adorable giggles, plentiful laughter, comical tickle-tackle games, and heavenly hugs and kisses. Almost four years of a pure love and happiness that only a daughter, granddaughter and sister could provide. We will always be thankful for those almost four years.

On October 25th, 1996, at approximately 12:00 pm, our precious Rachel Marie died in a horrific car accident. Our life would

change forever. In the following years I would deal with a tremendous range of emotions. At first shock would set in. I was in a fog. I felt as though I was just walking through life, just doing enough to get by. After Rachel died everything was different for me, but life went on as usual for others. This was very hard to accept. Then there was numbness, guilt, anger, and seemingly never ending tears. It has been a "roller-coaster" ride to be sure.

During the eight years of dealing with the loss of our precious Rachel Marie, I have come to realize that there is hope for the future. The hope comes in the love we feel for her, the sharing of our cherished memories of Rachel, and through helping others in her memory. I also have come to realize that I must remain patient in dealing with all the deep emotions I feel in coping with our loss of Rachel. These emotions are so deep, because my love for her is so deep. I will continue to cope because I love her so much. I will always cherish Rachel. I will always love Rachel. I will continue to have a relationship with her even in her death. Rachel's death cannot break the beautiful bond of mother and child. Rachel will always be my child.

During this January month, in honor of Rachel's birthday, I will make a wish for all bereaved parents. May the bond between you and your child remain strong through the love you and others feel for your child. May you find ways that work for you to keep your child's memory alive in the hearts and minds of others. May you also find some peace along the way. I wish you patience, love, and hope during this very difficult journey.

With Compassion,  
Rachel Marie's Mommy



**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS**  
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The January newsletter is lovingly dedicated to the memory of our beautiful daughter, Rachel Marie Schmidt by her Mommy, Daddy, Josh and Haley

And  
To the memory of Justin Hix by his parents, Tim and Theresa Childs

Both children are celebrating birthdays in January.

**Our Children Remembered:**

Cory Alexander – 12/14/83 ~ 1/2/94  
Charlie Bellinger – 1/21/79 ~ 5/22/93  
Brandon Berryman – 1/13/84 ~ 4/19/04  
Jimmy Burns – 1/5/83 ~ 4/4/96  
Nicholas Camerato – 7/1/87 ~ 1/12/96  
Jon Carpenter – 1/31/76 ~ 2/9/02  
Rivers Chandler – 1/22/91 ~ 3/6/00  
Trent M. Chapman – 1/10/80 ~ 6/27/94  
Mark Chappell – 10/8/84 ~ 1/9/2004  
Jill Dunlap – 9/24/67 ~ 1/29/86  
Christopher Ellison – 9/25/78 ~ 1/13/04  
Clint Garrett – 9/10/01 ~ 1/17/02  
Karen Hayden – 10/17/69 ~ 1/19/04  
Billy Hinson – 1/10/65 ~ 6/21/02  
Justin Hix – 1/9/81 ~ 7/19/03  
“TJ” Johnson – 1/26/77 ~ 3/23/97  
Jeremy McIntyre – 7/20/72 ~ 1/13/99  
Mark Medina – 1/17/58 ~ 3/24/92  
Ricky O’Brien – 10/4/62 ~ 1/10/87  
Kayla Pitts – 4/6/91 ~ 1/12/03  
Derrick Pond – 1/16/80 ~ 10/31/02  
Keith Poole – 6/2/59 ~ 1/19/98  
Matt Renner – 9/21/72 ~ 1/13/01  
Tommy Runion – 5/19/80 ~ 1/17/99  
Rachel Schmidt – 1/1/93 ~ 10/25/96  
Monica Sinclair – 1/10/95 ~ 8/27/00  
Holly Stephens – 4/11/85 ~ 1/2/04  
Tracy Whaley – 1/9/63 ~ 2/27/70  
Lucia White – 5/4/79 ~ 1/29/95

**Note from the Editor:**



It’s time to update our Newsletter mailing list. If any information has changed or is incorrect, please contact me at the address listed below. Also if your child’s name has not been listed in “Our Children Remembered” column, it may be that we do not have a signed consent form on file which we are required to have in order to publish your child’s information. You can complete a consent form on line at [www.tcfogreenvillesc.org](http://www.tcfogreenvillesc.org) or you can complete the one on the back of the newsletter. If you do not wish to continue receiving our monthly Newsletter, please notify me and I will remove your name from our mailing list. Thank you.

*TCF – Newsletter Editor  
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**Some Poems for Rachel**

**Love Is Never Lost**

As the months pass and the seasons change, something of tranquility descends, and although the well-remembered footsteps will not sound again, nor the voice call from the room beyond, there seems to be about one in the air, an atmosphere of love, a living presence.

*~Daphne Du Maurier, from  
“The Rebecca Notebook”*

**The Existence Of Love**

I had thought that your death was a waste and destruction, a pain of grief hardly to be endured. I am only beginning to learn that your life was a gift and a growing, and a loving left with me. The desperation of death, destroyed the existence of love, but the fact of death cannot destroy what has been given. I am learning to look at your life again instead of your death and departing.

*~Marjorie Pizer*

**January’s Meeting**

The Greenville Chapter of *The Compassionate Friends* will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, January 13, 2005 from 7:30 to 8:30 pm at Pelham Rd. Baptist Church, 1108 Pelham Rd., Greenville. Jill Schmidt will lead the discussion. The topic will be “Celebrating our Child’s Birthday”.



Our Chapter has a monthly Birthday Table. This is a special table set up for those who have a child, grandchild or sibling’s birthday in that month. Please bring a photo/memento and share a special memory of your child. You are also welcome to bring your child’s favorite food or birthday cake to share with the group. We hope you will take this opportunity to share your child with us.